Florence Marryat's American Notes

When she does comment upon American things, however, she never besitates to say what she thinks, and her conclusions are not always com plimentary. The interviewers, of course, dealt with her, and she gives

this experience with them: I had the pleasure of seeing eleven gentlemen of the New York press during the first two days of my arrival, so whoever the cap fits may wear it, but I must confess that a great deal appeared in print that I never said (nor could have said.) and that some of the questions put to me went beyond the bounds of courtesy. "And now, Miss Marryat." said one reporter, look ing me full in the face, "at what age shall I put you down?" "Wait a minnte." I replied, "you haven't asked me how many under-flannels I wear yet. Surely your readers will want to know that?" "You mean." he con tinued, "that you don't intend to tell me your age?" "I mean," I said, that I have no intention of answering any question except such as an English gentleman would feel himself justified in putting to me in my own drawing-room." (I guess that reporter put me down at about sixty five.) Sophie Eyre, who was staying at the Victoria, also told me that she had a similar question put to her in San Francisco, to which she answered that a woman is never older than she looks. When the critique appeared, it praised her acting, but said, "it was a pity she looked forty. The American ladies are, as a rule,

pretty. They have small, delicate features, fine eyes and good heads of hair, even when gray. But they seldom have any figure. As a rule they do not "fraternize"

with the English women much. On the other hand they adore the English men, and were I an American gentle man. I should feel rather jealous of their admiration for everything masculine on this side of the water. The height of their ambition seems to be to marry a Britisher, a lord if possi ble, but in default of a lord, an officer in the army. They have extravagant ideas about dress, and they talk too much for good breeding of what things cost. Yet the majority do not dress fashionably; far from it, according to our ideas of fashion. I had heard so much of the American woman's taste in dress that I was astonished to see so little of it; but when I mentioned the fact, I was told that if I wished to see "real elegant dressing," I must walk up and down Broadway on Sun day morning after church. This being so entirely opposed to the principles in which as are reared, i. e., that gentlewomen should wear their quietest dresses to church or in the public streets, I did not think it worth my while to go in search of the New York toilettes. When American ladies might dress gorgeously, that is at the theaters, they do not. The occupants stalls, beces and dress circle, appear ike in bonnets and walking cost traction from a well filled house. At Concord, on her return to the

adventure: An amusing incident occurred after my appearance at Concord. My manager approached me with a bated breath. The committee were entirely satisfied with everything, but but some comments had been made upon my wear? ing a low dress. I wished to know other comments. My entertainment dresses were such as any English lady would wear at the dinner table, and I could not understand in what way they could possibly have offended my Concord audience. "Oh! no, not of-fended!—nothing of the sort, only— American artistes wear high dresses as a rule, and the committee considered it preferable." "Then," I replied, "you may tell the committee"-but no! it is quite unnecessary to transcribe my message to that honorable body-"I am," I continued, "an Engglish gentlewoman, who has been used to mix in the highest society, and I know exactly what is the proper thing to wear. But I have come over here to teach the people how to speak and recite-I have not come to teach them how to dress. When I do, they will be at liberty to criticise my wardrobe. Until then they have no business to

No doubt the Concord committee considered themselves duly sat upon after this energetic rebuke.

# Oscillation of Chimneys.

E. Bourry, in the Memoires de la Soclete des Ingenieurs Civils, June, 1885, page 721; abstracted in the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers of London: The amplitude of the oscillation of chimneys has been exactly measured by observation of the shadows cast by the sun upon the ground. Recently the oscillations of a chimney 115 feet high and four feet in diameter externally at the top, near Marseilles, were observed by the shadow, during a high wind, to attain a maximum of 20 inches. It was estimated that the chimney deficted by an initial impulse, would have made four or five oscillations before returning to a state of rest. On the contrary, by a succession of impulses isochronous with the oscillations, a chimney may be finally be overthrown. Such is the explanation of the destruction of certain chimneys in which nevertheless, all the conditions of statical stability were fulfilled.

A passenger by the steamer Umbria on its voyage to England, when Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry were among those on board, tirus describes the latter: "She is the most nervous person imaginable, never quiet an instant, and wandering ceaselessly about the vessel, hair blowing like a mamae's and arms flying about in wild gesticulation when she talks. Though the voyage was a rough one, and despite her alarming eccentricities, Miss Terry proved to be a good sailor."

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